A HISTORY OF LOUISE BARBEN BUHLER

Written by Ardell Clyde (Adelene) (1960)

Louise Barben Buhler was born on January 1, 1865, at Spiezweiler, Switzerland, to Jacob Barben and Susanna Burgener. The land of her birth, I am told, is very beautiful where tourists come from all over the world to see the beauty of the trees, mountains, and flowers and to view the Swiss Alps with perpetual snow caps the year round.

I have seen films shown by people who have visited there. Also, my parents have told me of the beauty and my brother, Joe, who filled a mission there and viewed all the places of our forefathers.

There are beautiful waterfalls in a lovely Swiss valley. There is a cascade which is caught by a swift wind as it pours over the edge of the rocks, and scattered so that the stream is lost for a time, and only a whirling spray is seen in the air; but farther down the valley the stream gathers itself back again and pours along in full current in quiet peace, as if by the wind, even the blast that scatters it for a time and seems to destroy it altogether, really makes it all the lovelier as it whirls its cyrstal drops into the air. At no other point in all its course is the stream so beautiful.

The family came to Utah in the year 1873. There were six in the family then, the father and mother, Louise, Fredrick, Susanna, and Rosana. They settled in Midway, Utah. Louise was the oldest child being 8 years old when they came to Utah. There were five others born in Midway. They are Emma, Anna, Robert, William, and John. These five children were born under the covenant. The only one who survies is Emma Smith.

Grandfather Barben died in 1885 and Grandmother had a hard struggle to raise the three younger sons. Her oldest son, Fred, helped her take care of the Dutch Field Farm with the help of the younger brothers. My grandmother died in 1895 so Aunt Emma took care of the boys for a year. Then Robert came to live with my mother and family being 16 years of age. John lived at Susanna's and William with Rose.

I remember my Uncle Rob living with us. I really loved him, and he was so good to me.

My mother had twelve children, Franklin, William, Joseph, Alma, Adalene (Ardell), Francis, Ephraim, Roland, Orson, Bernice Vesta (Bonnie) and Thurman. She was a very devoted wife and mother. She didn't have time to do church work or take part in any social functions because she was so busy with her family. She was always thoughtful of anyone in trouble and she helped with the sick. She was loved by everyone.

She was married to Gottfred Buhler in the Indowment House in Salt Lake December 9, 1881, at the age of 16. My father was 26 years of age. Later they were sealed in the Logan Temple in 1885.

My mother was a real good seamstress and did hand work and knitting. She was also an excellent cook. I remember on special occasion, I was allowed to stay up late when her brothers would come from Park City to Midway to a dance. Mother would prepare dinner for them after the dance. Aunt Emma used to help mother. She helped with sewing. I remember some beautiful dresses she made for me. Also, after my mother died, Aunt Rose sewed for me and my sisters. Aunt Net, Uncle Rob's wife, took care of my younger sisters while I went on a trip.

The house my parents lived in was built by my father and most of the furniture was made by him. It was ready to move into when they were married.

My parents owned a farm, a bath house, a creamery, and the first store in Wasatch County. The boys helped with the work, and I clerked in the store. My mother had a hired girl most of the time, as she had a lot of work to do to take care of such a large family. One of my fondest memories is when we were all seated around the long table and ate together. My mother always attended church. My parents believed in the power of healing. When they had sickness, they called in the Elders rather than call a doctor. My mother was an excellent nurse. The reason the Swiss people settled in Midway was because it was quite a bit like Switzerland.

My mother's friend always praised my mother and told me that was loved by everyone. There are only a few of her friends [illegible]. She died on January 24, 1914, and was buried on Orson's birthday, January 26th.

Franklin passed away when he was four years of age. He was the oldest. William lives at Hailey, Idaho, the oldest of the family that is living. For years he was branch president over the district. His son, Harold, is now the Bishop of the Church which is now in Hailey. Joseph lives in Salt Lake--he filled a mission in Germany and Switzerland. He is interested in genealogy. Alma lives at American Fork--he is a high priest and five of his sons and a son-in-law filled missions. All of his children were married in the temple. Ardell (Adelene) lives in Heber City. She is interested in cooking, hand work, and music. She has worked in many different organizations in the church. (See note at end of history.) Francis lives in Salt Lake, and his wife, Louise, has just recently joined the Church. Ephraim lived in Shoshone, Idaho, and died of cancer November 9, 1945, at the age of 48. Roland resided at Midway, worked as a miner and a farmer, died of cancer January 27, 1958, at the age of 58. He was active in the Church. Orson has been a Bishop for many years and at present is living in Salt Lake. One son is now a Bishop and the other son and a daughter have filled missions. Bernice lived at Heber, Duchesne, and Salt Lake. She died of cancer February 5, 1954, at the age of 49. Vesta (Bonnie) lives in Salt Lake. She likes art. She likes painting, decorating, and sewing. Thurman lifed at Midway. He died of cancer of the brain June 11, 1939.

[NOTE BY BONNIE BUHLER ROUTH]

Since Aredll is too modest to tell the things that she and her husband, Dean Clyde, have done for our whole family since our mother's death, it should be recalled that Ardell and Dean were mother and father to her younger brothers and sisters. Francis, Roland, Orson, Bernice, Thurman, and Bonnie have at one time lived with these people during periods of their lives when they needed a job or home. Ardell and Dean were always willing to share what they had with these brothers and sisters as well as other folks in need.